



News

WESTCHESTER TOWN CENTER

JUNE 2014

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Information about the LAWA Specific Plan Amendment Study (SPAS) and the proposed move of the airport's northernmost runway can be found at laxspas.org



To contact the Office of L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents the Westchester Town Center BID area, please call (310) 568-8772 or visit cd11.lacity.org



To contact the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association please call (310) 225-7630 or visit

westchesterstreetscape.org

YOU ARE INVITED ...

The public is invited to attend WTC BID Board meetings, which are held at 10 am on the third Thursday of each month at Drollinger Properties, 8929 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 130 in Westchester.

Flying High at Flight Path

Flight Path honors local aviation and community pioneers as part of its Aviation Walk of Fame that runs through Westchester Town Center

Major contributors to the Southern California aviation and airport community were honored in a ceremony on May 29 in a beautiful new display area in the Westchester business district.

Flight Path's first four Honorary Service Awards were given to the Bob Hope USO at LAX, Howard B. Drollinger, John A. Garstka and David Tallichet. Also honored was Joseph J. "Tym" Tymczyszyn, whose embedded plaque is the 51st such plaque on Flight Path's Aviation Walk of Fame and is placed adjacent to the ceremony site. The individuals were honored posthumously.

The Bob Hope USO at LAX has for many years been a "home away from home" for military service personnel enroute to or from their assignments.

Howard B. Drollinger, an Army Air Corps navigator who flew 50 combat missions over Italy, was a faithful supporter of Flight Path and the preservation of Southern California's aviation heritage.

John A. Garstka earned recognition in the LAX community as a leader in education, business and support for training of future aviators.

David Tallichet was owner-operator of a group of restaurants, including the iconic Proud Bird – a showcase of aviation history, including replicas and models of significant aircraft on the grounds plus a large collection of aviation photos.

Joseph J. "Tym" Tymczyszyn achieved distinction as a test pilot on a wide variety of aircraft, including airline transports, military fighters, general aviation planes, helicopters and navigation systems.



What Is the Westchester Town Center BID?

The mission of the WTC BID is to: proactively enhance the vitality of the business district, its stakeholders, and the community by providing an inviting environment; streetscape landscaping and beautification; marketing and promotions; new business attraction; and policy advocacy.

It is a property based District formed by a vote of the commercial property owners that assess themselves for its costs of operation. Some 129 properties are included, and it is one of about 45 other business improvement districts in the City of Los Angeles. The WTC BID is managed by a non-profit corporation pursuant to its adopted Management District Plan and contract with the City. Its Board of Directors meets monthly and invites stakeholder participation.

Westchester Town Center BID Board of Directors

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Help the Homeless by Not Giving Them Money

Amazing change is taking place Westchester Town Center. New shops and restaurants are opening up, and the community is recovering from the recent economic downturn. But amid the new yogurt spots and remodeled restaurants, one feature of neighbourhood life remains the same – the daily presence of the homeless on the streets.

What should be done? It's easier to say what shouldn't. That is, you shouldn't give panhandlers money. The argument for what at first glance can seem like hard-heartedness is not new but worth repeating.

Providing a quarter here and a dollar there encourages the homeless to continue to panhandle instead of seeking help from organizations like PATH (People Assisting the Homeless). The Westchester Town Center BID has hired PATH to reach out to the homeless and try to connect them with a wide array of support services from shelters, soup kitchens and even job training.

The BID Board's far-sighted thinking to provide strategic outreach to homeless people in the Westchester area, has proven to be successful. In fact, the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa has joined in a similar effort and partnered with PATH to extend those services over an even wider area.

Through PATH's comprehensive network of programs and services, homeless individuals can be connected to a myriad of services including mental health, medical, substance abuse, employment, and immediate housing opportunities. PATH also regularly coordinates with local LAPD officers as well as other public and private social services agencies.

For more information about PATH, please visit www.epath.org, or contact the Westchester Outreach Team at (323) 228-3216.

Perhaps inspired by those who give to them, some panhandlers have become very persistent and intrusive – a climate that certainly does not engender a feeling of safety and enjoyment among those who shop or dine in the WTC area.

While the BID is working hard to help the homeless, it is also important to remember that the BID's chief goal is to help the local businesses flourish, something that is hard when their patrons encounter the homeless around every corner.

So, whether you're trying to help people get off the street or want the WTC area to be a more pedestrian-friendly shopping area (or both) – don't give money to panhandlers. Help them instead.